

CAPSULE SUMMARY

BA-1180

Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church

6601 Ebenezer Road

Chase, Baltimore County

1894

Private

The Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church, constructed to the west of the community known as Chase, is representative of the many Gothic Revival style churches built throughout Baltimore County in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. As late as 1850, only scattered farms comprised the land south of Bird River. The meetinghouse appears to occupy the land on which the Methodist Episcopal church is depicted in the 1877 county atlas. By 1877, the school was moved to a small parcel of land at the intersection of the two roads. Although it is uncertain whether or not the Methodist Episcopal church that existed in 1877 belonged to the Ebenezer congregation, this possibility is likely. The extant Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church is located on the land formerly occupied by Mrs. Mules, directly across from the congregation's former site. Although the Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church had been constructed in 1894 along Marble Avenue, few other structures populated this stretch of the primary route to Chase's Station and Post Office. Since 1915, the property occupied by the Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church has been developed by the 1965 construction of an educational building.

Ebenezer Methodist Church was built in 1894. The cornerstone reads "Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal, July 16, 1894." This three-bay wide church, surrounded by an asphalt parking lot, fronts north with a cemetery to the east. The random rubble stone foundation supports a wood frame structure clad with aluminum siding. The roof is front-gabled with asphalt shingles pierced by an interior end brick chimney that has been rebuilt. A tapered, square tower projects from the façade with a flared-eave pyramidal roof. Featured on the first story of the tower is the main entry consisting of a double-leaf paneled door under a pointed arch stained glass transom. The three sides of the tower's second story are pierced with a triangular, three-light window. On each side of its first story is a pointed arch stained glass window. The façade of the main block is pierced with two pointed arch windows of stained glass. All of the windows have aluminum-clad sills and pointed arch aluminum surrounds. There is a square, projecting bay on the east and west elevations with paired stained glass windows under a tripartite transom all encompassed in a pointed arch surround. On the rear, there is a three-sided projecting bay with a small gabled addition. Located on a hill to the east of the original church is a cemetery with approximately 200 grave markers. Located to the south of the church is a 1965 educational building with a cornerstone of green marble that reads Ebenezer Methodist Church, 1790-1965.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-1180

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church (preferred), Ebenezer Methodist Church

other

2. Location

street and number 6601 Ebenezer Road not for publication

city, town Chase vicinity

county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of Ebenezer Methodist Church

street and number 6601 Ebenezer Road telephone Not Available

city, town Chase state MD zip code 21027

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber N/A folio N/A

city, town Towson tax map 83 tax parcel 572 tax ID number 1520660132

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources
previously listed in the Inventory

1

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-1180

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Ebenezer Methodist Church was built in the Gothic Revival style in 1894. The cornerstone reads "Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal, July 16, 1894." This three-bay wide church, surrounded by an asphalt parking lot, fronts north with a cemetery to the east. The random rubble stone foundation supports a wood frame structure clad with aluminum siding. The roof is front-gabled with asphalt shingles pierced by an interior end brick chimney that has been rebuilt. A tapered, square tower projects from the façade with a flared-eave pyramidal roof. Featured on the first story of the tower is the main entry consisting of a double-leaf paneled door under a pointed arch stained glass transom. The three sides of the tower's second story are pierced with a triangular, three-light window. On each side of its first story is a pointed arch stained glass window. The façade of the main block is pierced with two pointed arch windows of stained glass. All of the windows have aluminum-clad sills and pointed arch aluminum surrounds. There is a square, projecting bay on the east and west elevations with paired stained glass windows under a tripartite transom all encompassed in a pointed arch surround. On the rear, there is a three-sided projecting bay with a small gabled addition.

Located on a hill to the east of the original church is a cemetery with approximately 200 grave markers. These markers made of granite or marble range in shape from obelisks to rounded arch to flat. Currently still in use, the cemetery dates from 1850 and includes such family names as Strong, Earl, Lawrence, Porter, Wilkenson, and Nizer.

Located to the south of the church is a 1965 educational building with a cornerstone of green marble that reads Ebenezer Methodist Church, 1790-1965. Standing two stories tall, this wood frame structure is clad with stucco. The north façade features sixteen 6/6 vinyl windows with vinyl surrounds and brick row-lock sills. The gabled entrance portico has decorative concrete block panels and a single leaf wood door that is paneled with lights. The door is flanked by one-light sides over a flush dado.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-1180

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates	1894-present	Architect/Builder	Unknown
Construction dates	1894		

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church, constructed in 1894 to the west of the community known as Chase, is representative of the many Gothic Revival style churches built throughout Baltimore County in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. As late as 1850, only scattered farms comprised the land south of Bird River. The properties maintained by Mrs. Wikenson, B. Jones, William Bedford, and J. Bevan, among a few others, were joined by a school and the “Red Meeting House” as the improvements on the land between Marble Avenue—currently known as Ebenezer Road—and the river.¹ The meetinghouse appears to occupy the land on which the Methodist Episcopal church appears in the 1877 county atlas. Sited north of the terminus of the current Earls Road, the church was sited across Marble Avenue from the property of Mrs. Mules. By 1877, the school was moved to a small parcel of land at the intersection of the two roads. Nearby, the community of Chase’s Station Post Office was beginning to form at the intersection of the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad and Marble Avenue.² Although it is uncertain whether or not the Methodist Episcopal church that existed in 1877 belonged to the Ebenezer congregation, this possibility is likely. The extant Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church is located on the land formerly occupied by Mrs. Mules, directly across from the congregation’s former site. The 1915 county atlas indicates that little growth took place over the prior fifty years. Although the Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church had been constructed in 1894 along Marble Avenue, few other structures populated this stretch of the primary route to Chase’s Station and Post Office.³ Since 1915, Chase’s Station and Post Office has been shortened merely to Chase, and the property occupied by the Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church has been further developed by the 1965 construction of an educational building.

The Gothic Revival style was popular in the mid- to late 19th century for residential and religious buildings. As the style was supplanted by the popular Queen Anne style for domestic construction, the Gothic Revival style continued to predominate in the design of churches. High-style Gothic Revival churches make use of steeply pitched roofs, ornate stone or wood tracery in pointed-arched windows, masonry polychroming, and trefoil and quatrefoil motifs. In rural country churches, the style is modestly interpreted through the use of pointed-arched windows and steeply pitched roofs.

¹ J.C. Sidney, *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys* (Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850).

² *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G.M. Hopkins, 1877).

³ *Map of Baltimore County* (Philadelphia, PA: G.W. Bromley, 1915).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-1180

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland.* Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.
Baltimore County Historic Inventory.
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.
Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.
Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.
Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1.48 Acre
Acreage of historical setting Unknown
Quadrangle name Middle River Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Since its construction in 1894, the Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church has been associated with the 1.48 acres of land known as tax parcel 572 of map 83 located in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's office.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Traceries, Incorporated	date	May 21, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

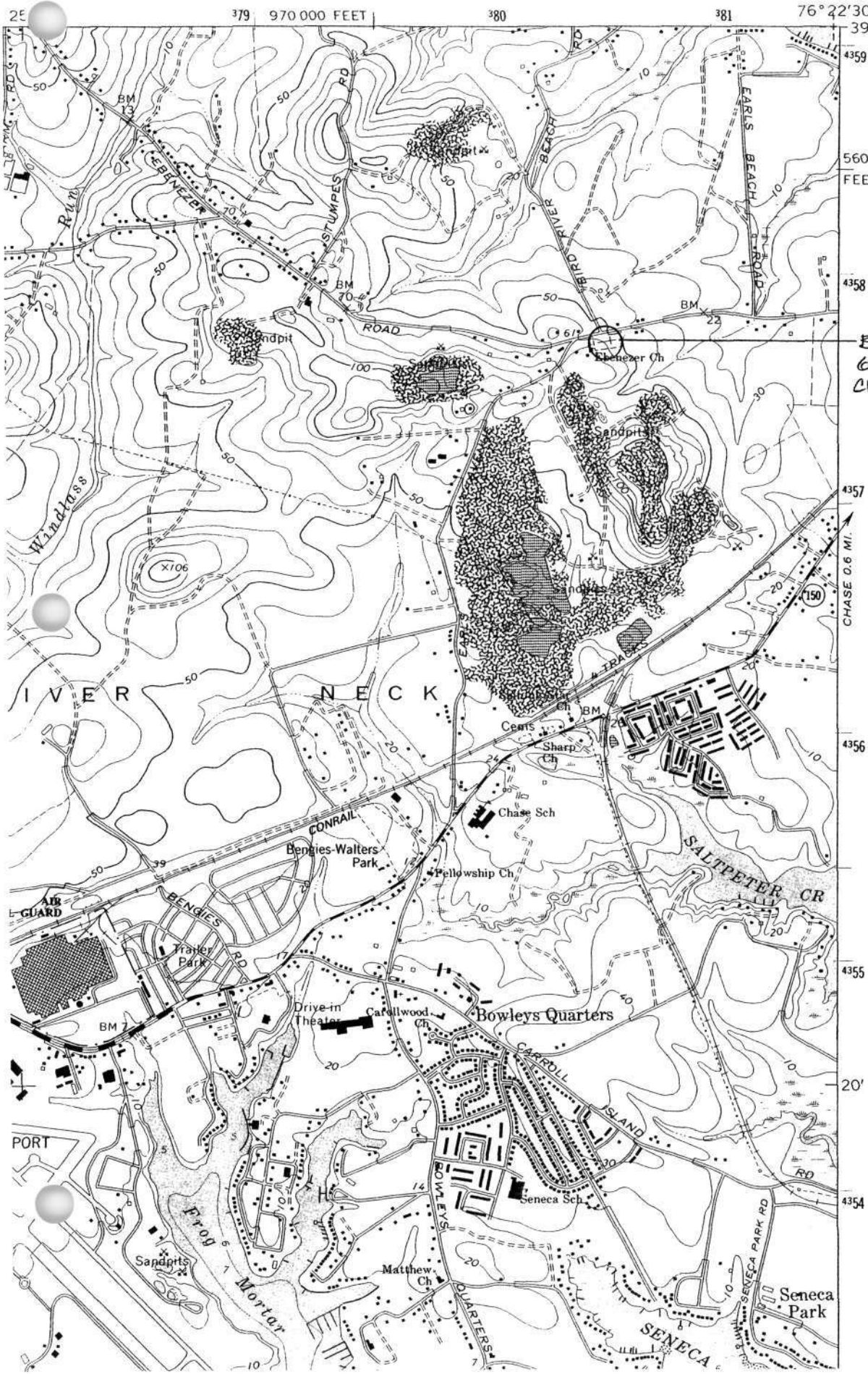
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

MIDDLE RIVER QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND-BALTIMORE CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5762 IV NE
(EDGEWOOD)



BA-1180
6601 EBENEZER ROAD
CHASE, BALTIMORE COUNTY



BA-1180

6601 EBENEZER ROAD
CHASE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
TRAILERES

3/2001

MD-SHPD

N ELEVATION



BA-1180

6601 EBENEZER ROAD
CHASE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

3/2001

MD-3HPD

NW CORNER

2 of 4



BA-1180

6601 EBENEZER ROAD

CHASE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

3/2001

MD - SHED

SE CORNER

3 of 4



BA 1180
6601 EBENEZER ROAD
CHASE
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
TRAILER FS
3/2001
MD-STATE
CEMETERY

4 of 4

CAPSULE SUMMARY
Ebenezer Methodist Church
6601 Ebenezer Road
BA-1180

As one of the oldest Methodist congregations in the United States, the Ebenezer Methodist Church has served the Bird/Middle River community since its founding in the 1790s. The present building, constructed in 1894 by the Trustees of the Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church, was the second church building erected by the congregation. Several members of the first church were reinterred at the adjacent cemetery, which was laid out in 1893. According to local history, the church was named in honor of Ebenezer Blackstone. In Hebrew, Ebenezer means "stone of help" making it a common congregation name. The church was one of several local "circuit" churches served by a Methodist itinerant preacher, or "circuit rider," who preached sermons at each of the churches in one day. The Ebenezer Methodist Church continued to function as a circuit church until the increase in membership prompted the hiring of the first full-time pastor in 1982.

The Gothic Revival-style building, standing two-stories in height is prestigiously located on an elevated plot of land, landscaped with mature shade trees and shrubs. Set upon a random rubble stone foundation, the wood frame building was historically clad with weatherboard that has been sheathed with vinyl siding. The wide-pitched front gable roof, clad with asphalt shingles, has a slight overhang. It is pierced on the north elevation by a single brick interior chimney. Marked by lancet openings, the projecting steeple at the facade is crowned with a flared hip roof clad in decorative wood shingles. The rectangular main block of the church is marked by single and paired lancet window openings with stained glass. A cornerstone reads: "Ebenezer Methodist Church, July 16, 1894."

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. BA-1180

Section 8 Page 5

Ebenezer Methodist Church
name of property
Baltimore County, MD
county and state

=====

National Register Evaluation:

Constructed in 1894, the Ebenezer Methodist Church is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

The Ebenezer Methodist Church does not meet the National Register Criteria B. Preliminary research has not revealed any association between the building and the lives of persons significant in our past.

The Ebenezer United Methodist Church at 6601 Ebenezer Road is eligible due to the fact that it meets National Register Criteria A, C, and D. Preliminary research revealed an association between the building and events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history (Criterion A). The Ebenezer Methodist Church was founded in this area as early as 1790 and is one of the oldest Methodist congregations in the county. The congregation constructed the present church building in 1894. This structure is a good example of late 19th-century Methodist church construction. This church is not credited as a commission of a noted architect, however, it is a possible example of plan 43A from the 1889 Methodist Episcopal Church catalogue, thus making it distinguished from common rural Gothic Revival-style church construction (Criterion C). Although replacement materials and new construction have compromised aspects of the building's integrity, sufficient historic fabric remains. The presence of a cemetery provides evidence that the property is likely to yield information important in history (Criterion D). Thus, the property is National Register-eligible.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended X Not Recommended _____

Comments:

Review, OPS: [Signature] Date: 11/19/97

Reviewer, NR Program: [Signature] Date: 3/17/00

Cmg

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. BA-1180

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Ebenezer Methodist Church

common/other name _____

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 6601 Ebenezer Road not for publication _____
city or town Chase vicinity _____ state Maryland code MD
county Baltimore code 005 zip code 21027

=====

3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

=====

4. National Park Service Certification N/A

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check only one box)

☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check all that apply)

☒ building(s)
☐ district
☒ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes _____ Name of Listing _____

No ☒

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
Ebenezer Methodist Church
6601 Ebenezer Road
Baltimore County, Maryland

Inventory No. BA-1180
Page 2

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RELIGION Sub: Religious Facility
FUNERARY Cemetery

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RELIGION Sub: Religious Facility
FUNERARY Cemetery

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Gothic Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Solid: Stone Rubble

roof Gable: Asphalt Shingles

walls Vinyl Siding

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
Ebenezer Methodist Church
6601 Ebenezer Road
Baltimore County, Maryland

Inventory No. BA-1180
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=====
8. Statement of Significance
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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☒ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☒ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☒ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
Ebenezer Methodist Church
6601 Ebenezer Road
Baltimore County, Maryland

Inventory No. BA-1180
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=====
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Religion

Period of Significance 1894-present

Significant Dates 1894

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation Undefined

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
Ebenezer Methodist Church
6601 Ebenezer Road
Baltimore County, Maryland

Inventory No. BA-1180
Page 5

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Baltimore County Planning and Zoning Department, Towson, Maryland.
Vertical Files.

Ercolano, Patrick. "Church Marks 200 Years of Good Works."
Baltimore Evening Sun, February 12, 1990, B1.

Sulmonetti, Reverend Earl W., and Charles E. Rada. Ebenezer
Methodist Church, Chase, Maryland," March 25, 1965.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
Ebenezer Methodist Church
6601 Ebenezer Road
Baltimore County, Maryland

Inventory No. BA-1180
Page 6

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property 15 Acres

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Ebenezer Methodist Church and cemetery are located at 6601 Ebenezer Road, Baltimore, Maryland.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The building and cemetery have been associated with the site since the tract was purchased and improved in 1893.

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Laura V. Trieschmann, Architectural Historian
organization Traceries date August 1, 1997
street & number 5420 Western Avenue telephone 301/656-5283
city or town Chevy Chase state MD zip code 20815
=====

12. Property Owner
=====

name Ebenezer Methodist Church
street & number 6601 Ebenezer Road telephone 410/335-4807
city or town Chase state MD zip code 21027
=====

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. BA-1180

Section 7 Page 1

Ebenezer Methodist Church
name of property
Baltimore County, MD
county and state

=====

The two-story Ebenezer Methodist Church building, located at 6601 Ebenezer Road, was constructed in 1894. The Gothic Revival-style building is prestigiously located on an elevated plot of land, landscaped with mature shade trees and shrubs. Set upon a random rubble stone foundation, the wood frame building was historically clad with weatherboard, which has been sheathed with vinyl siding. The wide-pitched front gable roof, clad with asphalt shingles, has a slight overhang. It is pierced on the north elevation by a single brick interior chimney. Marked by lancet openings, the projecting steeple at the facade is crowned with a flared hip roof clad in decorative wood shingles. The rectangular main block of the church is marked by single and paired lancet window openings with stained glass. A cornerstone reads: "Ebenezer Methodist Church, July 16, 1894."

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION:

The west elevation of the church, facing Ebenezer Road, is divided into three bays with the principal entry located in the centrally placed steeple. The tower of the steeple has a double entry opening with paneled metal replacement doors capped by an imposing lancet-shaped transom. The entry is accessible from the concrete stairs and metal rail. The side elevations of the tower are symmetrically detailed with narrow lancet windows surrounded with square-edged metal casings. A wide mullion marks the lower portion of the fixed stained glass windows.

The second story of the tower is suggested by the ogee-molded stringcourse. Equally spaced on all three exposed elevations of the tower are modest pointed arch window openings. The openings each have three fixed lights and square-edged metal casings. The lantern of the steeple, marked by the encircling shed roof of wood shingles, has no visible openings. However, as seen in historic photographs, the lantern historically was pierced on each elevation by three lancet-arched openings filled with wood louvers. The hipped spire of the steeple remains as originally designed. It has an overhanging boxed cornice created by the flared base of the roof, above which triangular vents with wooden louvers are located.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. BA-1180

Section 7 Page 2

Ebenezer Methodist Church
name of property
Baltimore County, MD
county and state

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Symmetrically placed single lancet window openings flank the steeple at the facade of the main block. Like the lancet windows on the first story of the tower, the openings contain fixed stained glass, a wide lower mullion, and square-edged metal casings. Similarly, the four bays of the side elevations of the building have lancet openings with stained glass. The third bay of the side elevations, however, projects slightly, marking the Latin cross plan of the church. The projecting bays have intersecting tracery lancet windows with extremely wide mullions. The south elevation contains a single entry opening with a paneled metal door capped by a lancet-shaped transom with stained glass and metal casings.

The east elevation has two lancet windows with stained glass on the first story and a single round window opening in the gable end. This smaller opening has a fixed stained glass window.

CEMETERY AND SUPPORTING BUILDINGS

Located to the south of the church building is the cemetery. Originally laid in 1893, the cemetery contains over 200 grave markers, the oldest of which are located in the northeast corner.

The granite markers, varying in design and scale, are set in loose rows running east to west among mature shade trees. The earliest markers, having been reinterred in 1893-1894, date from the 1830s and 1840s. The active cemetery is bisected by an asphalt drive extending from the church building to Ebenezer Road.

The educational building was constructed in 1965 to the southwest of the church. The two-story building is built of concrete block that has been parged. It is covered by a flat roof. The elevations are pierced by symmetrically placed 6/6 windows with rowlock brick sills. The parsonage, erected in 1981, is a one-story frame building set upon a poured concrete foundation. It is located to the north of the educational building. Clad with vinyl siding, the building is covered by a low pitched side gable roof of asphalt shingles.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. BA-1180

Section 8 Page 1

Ebenezer Methodist Church
name of property
Baltimore County, MD
county and state

=====

As one of the oldest Methodist congregations in the United States, the Ebenezer Methodist Church has served the Bird/Middle River community since its founding in the 1790s. The present building, constructed in 1894 by the Trustees of the Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church, was the second church building erected by the congregation. Several members of the first church were reinterred at the adjacent cemetery, which was laid out in 1893. According to local tradition, the church was named in honor of Ebenezer Blackstone. In Hebrew, Ebenezer means "stone of help" making it a common congregation name. The church was one of several local "circuit" churches served by a Methodist itinerant preacher, or "circuit rider," who preached sermons at each of the churches in one day. The Ebenezer Methodist Church continued to function as a circuit church until the increase in membership prompted the hiring of the first full-time pastor in 1982.

CHURCH HISTORY

The Methodist Church had established a presence in the Bird River area as early as 1790 with the construction of a meeting house that served on Sundays as the Bird River Chapel. The building was sited on a 1/2 acre of property located on what is now Ebenezer Road, 500 feet west of Bird River Beach Road. During the late 18th century, this intersection was known as Main Country Road, bisecting the tracts known as Arthur's Choice and Farm Road. The modest parcel had been purchased for five shillings from Caleb Owings, owner of the Arthur's Choice tract. Soon after the construction of the building, the chapel became known as the Ebenezer Church. According to local history, the church was named in honor of Ebenezer Blackstone, who had owned a majority of the land in the area in 1672.

Due to the sparse population of the area by the turn of the 19th century, the Ebenezer Church was one of four local "circuit" churches served by a Methodist itinerant preacher, or "circuit rider," who preached sermons at each of the four churches in one day. Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, the number of churches associated with the circuit rider fluctuated as the parish district was divided and subsequently subdivided on several occasions.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. BA-1180

Section 8 Page 2

Ebenezer Methodist Church
name of property
Baltimore County, MD
county and state

=====

Following a brief loss in membership during and immediately after the Civil War, the number of persons participating at the Ebenezer Church had increased to 91 individual members. The American Methodists separated from the established Methodist church in 1884.

The reformed Methodist church gained in popularity across the United States, and Ebenezer Methodist Church, one of the oldest Methodist congregations in the country, also continued to grow. The increasing congregation and internal funding provided the Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church with one of the highest assessments of those churches included in the Great Falls Circuit.

The expanding congregation, and the growing number of churches on the circuit, prompted the Trustees of the Ebenezer Church in 1889 to submit a letter to the Methodist Quarterly Conference requesting a building site for a new and larger church building. A committee was then appointed to locate a suitable location, although no immediate action was taken. By 1891, the congregation had reached 102 members. Thus, the position of an on-site assistant pastor was created and a parsonage house was rented in Chase. On December 8, 1892, the Trustees of the Ebenezer Church were incorporated as the total congregation reached 112 members.

BUILDING HISTORY

The continued growth and stable congregation of the Ebenezer Church ensured its future, prompting permission to be granted for the construction of a new church building. Early in 1893, the Trustees purchased a tract of land, described as follows:

Mary A. Thompson and Thomas Thompson deed to the Trustees of Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church grant in fee consideration \$400.00, Beginning for the same at the end of the south twenty and one half degrees east, one hundred fifty six perches, line of the land conveyed by John Thomas Ewing and wife to Mary A. Thompson AD 1886 and recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore County in Liber JWS No. 155 Folio 134, thence running with and bounding on said land and on the County road north eighty-one degrees east, 29 perches, thence still bounding on said land the three following courses viz south 23-3/4 degrees east, 44-2/10 perches, to intersect the third line of "Arthurs Choice," as heretofore surveyed, thence bounding on said line south 66-3/4 degrees west, 71-3/10 perches, more or less, thence

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bounding on the given line of "Arthurs Choice" and the first line of Annsville reversely, north 22 degrees and 50 minutes west, 61-2/10 perches, more or less, to the center of said Road north 79 degrees east, 2 perches, north 75-1/2 degrees east, 14 perches, north 81 degrees east, 10 perches, north 84-3/4 degrees east, 21 perches, more or less, to the place of beginning. Containing 18 acres.

This new site was actually located across Main Country Road from the 1790s meeting house historically used by the congregation. On July 24, 1893, the cemetery lots were laid out, with particular care paid to shade trees and foliage. Several members of the first church were reinterred at this present cemetery. Coinciding with the creation of the by-laws, the congregation began the construction of the Gothic Revival church building. Possibly using the 1889 Methodist Episcopal Church catalogue, church plan number 43A, the imposing wood frame building was completed on July 16, 1894, as documented by the cornerstone.

The building was dedicated on October 20, 1894. The event was documented in the *Baltimore Methodist* on October 24, 1894 as follows:

Sunday, the 20th was a grand day to the people of Ebenezer appointment, Great Falls Circuit, it being the occasion of the dedication of their new church. The building is a Gothic structure, 34 by 65 feet, inclusive of pulpit recess and tower, and is situated on an eminence near the old church and a half mile from Chase station P.W. & B. RR.

The audience room is beautifully frescoed, covered throughout with Brussels carpet, seated with comfortable pews of quartered oak, is lighted with windows of a combination of frosted and stained glass and furnished with a magnificent chandelier of the most brilliant reflecting power.

The erection of the building was under the superintendency of Mr. Jno. A. Sheridan, one of the trustees, through whose careful management and persistent effort we have the completed edifice. The entire cost, including a beautiful cemetery plot adjoining the church,

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is about \$3,500.00, all of which has been provided in cash and subscriptions, except \$700 which amount will be funded and met in easy payments. Much praise must be given to the Ladies Aid Society of the appointment for their continued and patient effort in behalf of this enterprise.

Despite the construction of the new church building, the congregation remained one of six churches in the Great Falls Circuit. It was not until 1982 that Reverend Clark Carr was hired as the first full-time pastor for the Ebenezer Methodist Church.

The latter half of the 20th century has also brought physical alterations to the property with the 1965 construction of the educational center and the 1981 construction of the parsonage (erected for \$39,175). The congregation of the Ebenezer Methodist Church has continued to serve the Bird/Middle River community, effectively providing religious guidance, shelter, relief, council, and refuge. In fact, the educational center served as one of the major emergency relief stations after the January 4, 1988 Amtrak train and Conrail collusion.

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Development Period (s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)
Modern Period (1930-present)

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):

Architecture, Landscape, and Community Planning
Religion

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function (s): RELIGION: Religious Facility
FUNERARY: Cemetery

Known Design Source: Unknown

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Chain of Title:

1886:	John Thomas Ewing to Mary A. Thompson and Thomas Thompson Land Records of Baltimore County, Liber JWS 155 Folio 134
May 13, 1893:	Mary A. and Thomas Thompson to the Trustees of the Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church Land Records of Baltimore County Liber LMB 197 Folio 321

SKETCH MAP

Ebenezer M.E. Church

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6601 Ebenezer Rd. Chase, MD
Cemetery

Baltimore
County

← N

cemetery

oldest
graves.

Mech.

church
school
+ offices

wooded
area

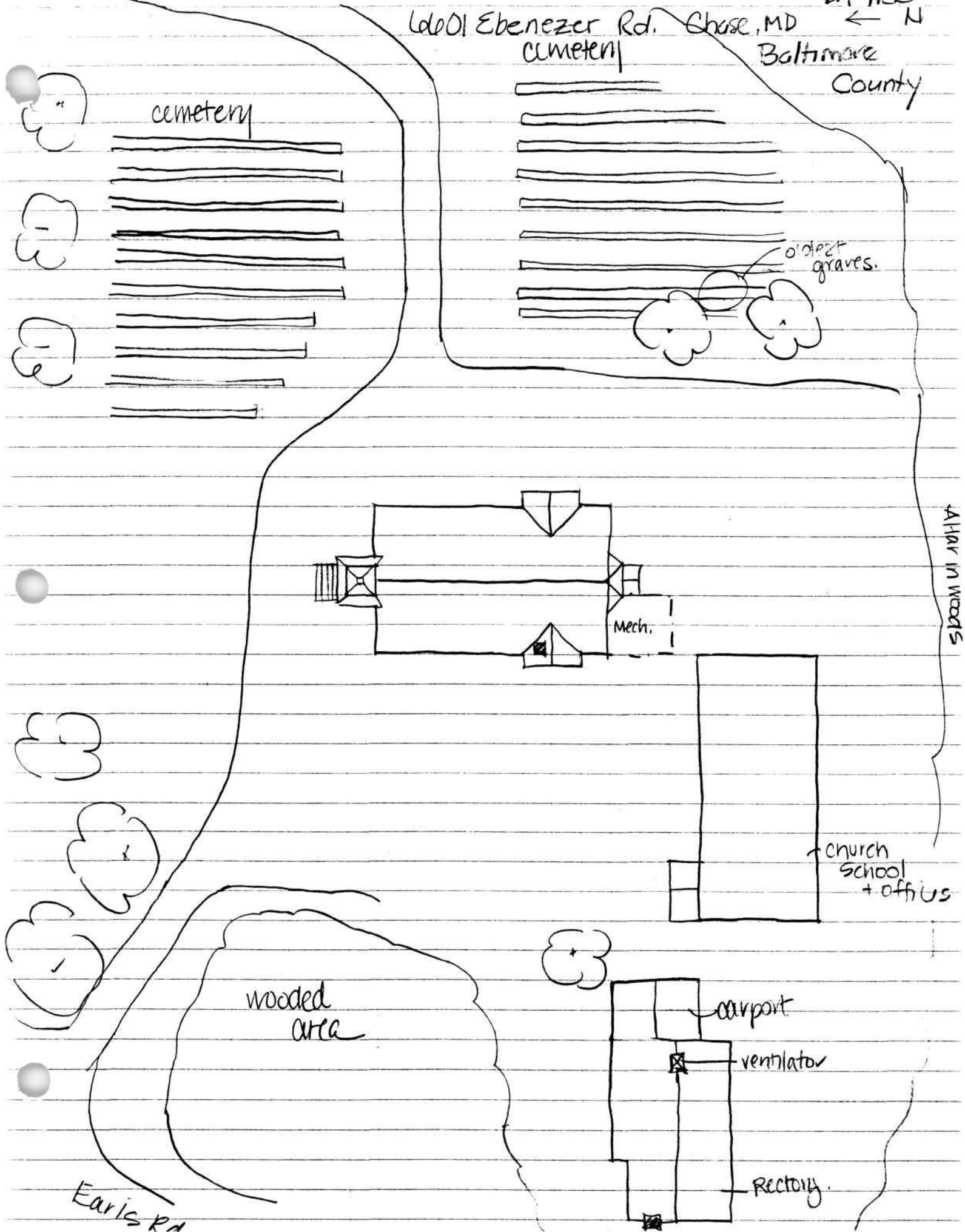
carport

ventilator

Rectory.

Altar in woods

Earle Rd





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EBENEZER METHODIST CHURCH
CHASE, MD

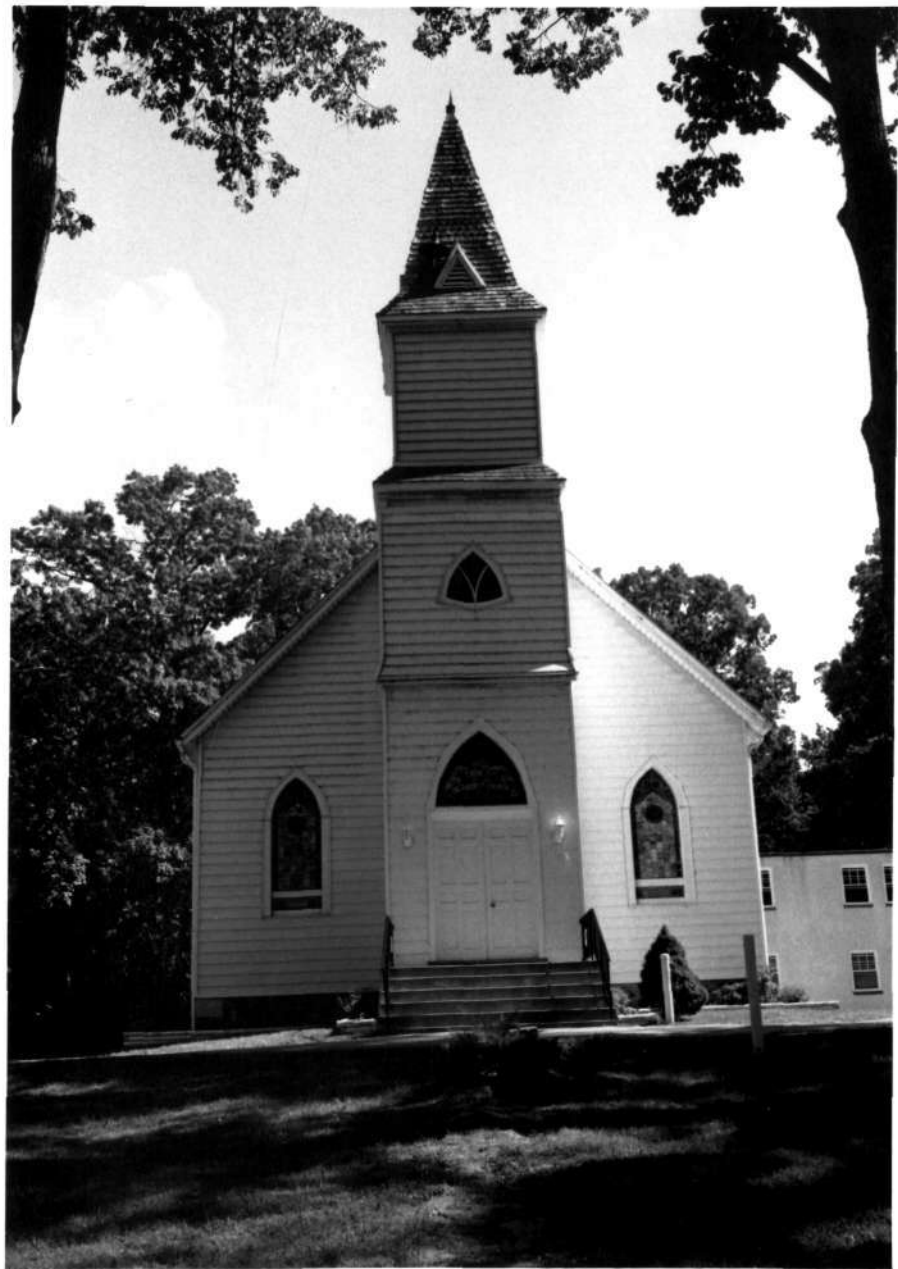
TRACERIES

AUGUST 1997

MARYLAND SHPO

GENERAL VIEW- LOOKING WEST

1 OF 10



BA-1180

EBENEZER METHODIST CHURCH

CHASE, MD

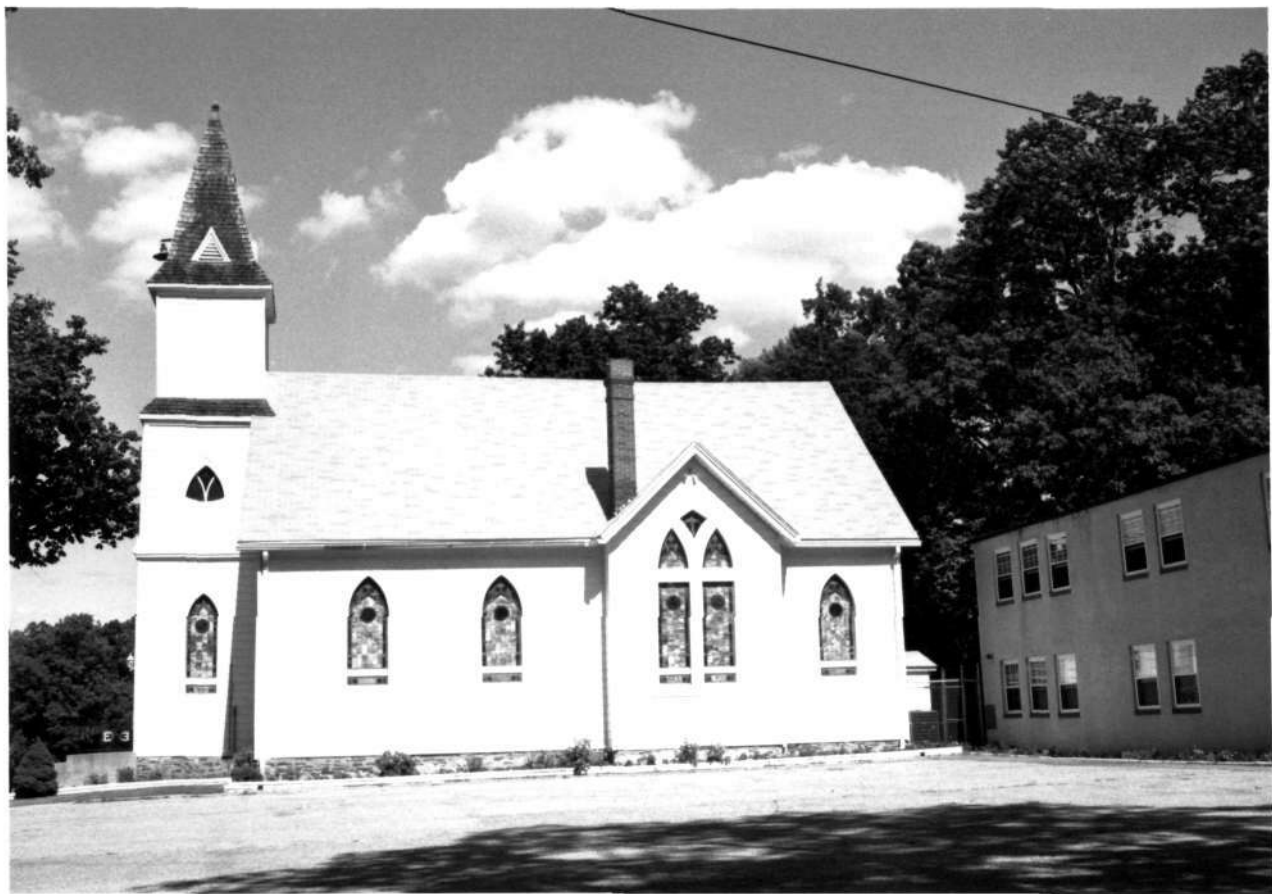
TRACERIES

AUGUST 1997

MARYLAND SHPO

NORTH ELEVATION

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WEST ELEVATION
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EBENEZER METHODIST CHURCH

CHASE, MD

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SOUTH ELEVATION

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MARYLAND SHPO
CEMETERY - LOOKING NE
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CHASE, MD

TRACERIES

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MARYLAND SHPO

CEMETERY - LOOKING NE

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CHASE, MD

TRACERIES

AUGUST 1997

MARYLAND SHPO

CEMETERY - NIZER FAMILY GRAVES

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MARYLAND SHPO

CHURCH SCHOOL & OFFICES - NW CORNER

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RECTORY - NORTH ELEVATION
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